AVENGERS® VS X-MEN®

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AVX

PROLOGUE

SCARLET WITCH
AVENGER.
DAUGHTER OF MAGNETO.

HER REALITY-ALTERING POWER MADE MUTANTS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES WITH JUST THREE WORDS.

HOPE SUMMERS
X-MAN.
CALLED THE MUTANT MESSIAH.

SHE'S DESTINED TO SAVE THE ENTIRE MUTANT RACE...OR PERHAPS DESTROY THE WORLD.

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ADEF AND BABET

DO WE HAVE A CLEAR SHOT?

THE WAKANDAN AMBASSADOR IS ESCORTING DR. UDAKU IN HIS OVERSTUFFED MOTORCADE AND IS EN ROUTE TO THE PENTAGON AS WE SPEAK.

MORGER

THEN THE WORD IS GIVEN.

PROCEED.

PROCEEDING.

WITH CAUTION.

OBVIOUSLY.

TARGET IN SIGHT.

PROCEED.

THE SECRET SERVICE SEES US.

GOOD.

I WANT THEM TO SEE US.

I WANT THEM TO SEE EVERY SECOND.

HOLY--!

LET THEM SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A SCIENTIST OF A.I.M. BETRAYS HIS BROTHERS!

LET THEM SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO SELL OUR SECRETS.

LET THE WORLD SEE THAT M.O.D.O.K. WILL NOT ALLOW IT!

COME OUT, DOCTOR UDAKU!

SPEND YOUR LAST MINUTES AS A MAN.

IT'S M.O.D.O.K.!

I TOLD YOU.

NO ONE ESCAPES THE CONCLAVE OF A.I.M.

NO ONE ESCAPES.

SPEND YOUR LAST BREATH WITH SOME SORT OF HONOR.

NO?

FINE WITH ME!

BURN.

FAPKSSS

WHAT?

WHY AM I MISFIRING?

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY--?

SURRENDER.

OR I'LL MAKE YOU.

AARRGHH! WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE Y--? WAIT!

I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THE SCARLET WITCH. THE DISGRACED AVENGER!

MY GOODNESS, THE RUMORS THAT I HAVE HEARD...

THE RUMOR WAS THAT YOU'D LOST YOUR MIND AND TURNED ON THE AVENGERS.

OH, NO.

YOU'RE GOING TO TALK A LOT, AREN'T YOU?

RUMOR HAS IT YOU'RE THE REASON THAT MUTANTS ARE NO LONGER A CONCERN.

PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU, IF I WANTED TO HEAR A CRAZY MONOLOGUE I'D MOVE BACK IN WITH MY FATHER.

ATTACK!

MAGNETO'S BABY GIRL NEEDS TO LEARN TO STAY IN HER PLACE!

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED HIDDEN UNDER WHICHEVER ROCK YOU CAME OUT FROM.

I WONDER, DEAR, IF THERE'S SOME SORT OF REWARD FOR YOUR HEAD.

IT WOULD SEEM YOU DID MORE TO HURT THE WORLD THAN ANYTHING ANY OF US SO-CALLED--

SPOK

HHRRAAGH!

END THIS QUICKLY!

WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE EVERY BROKEN HERO LINING UP TO--

BROKEN, WHO'S BROKEN?

I'M A LITTLE BROKEN.

SMACK

CRUNCH

BOOM! I WON'T LIE TO YOU, LADIES, I KINDA NEEDED THIS.

ZAK! ZAK!

ZDAK! ZDAK!

OH, I KNOW. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE UGGO A.I.M. SCIENTIST BEEKEEPER OUTFITS OR THE ÜBER SMELLY BIOENGINEERED CREEPY BOTS, BUT I JUST WANT TO SMASH THE CRAP OUT OF *ALL* OF THIS.

AAGGHH!

I'M SURE THERE'S A WHOLE BACKSTORY HERE, BUT GOOD LORD DO I NOT EVEN--

AGH!

BOOM

YOU DARE--

ZDAK!

SHUT IT.

KILLER SAVE, SCARLET. YOU STILL GOT IT.

WANDA?

Mc SWIGGIN'S

WALK

WANDA.

IT'S ME, CAROL. CAROL DANVERS.

YOU REMEMBER SPIDER-WOMAN...

UH, HEY.

I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE THIS ON MY OWN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? JOB WELL DONE.

GUESS I'M A LITTLE RUSTY.

GUESS I'M NOT READY YET.

HEY...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, CAROL. YOU LOOK GOOD. HEALTHY.

I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WAIT WAIT WAIT--HOLD ON.

YOU'RE COMING BACK TO THE MANSION WITH US.

OF COURSE. COME ON.

OH, NO.

NO. NO. I'M NOT READY FOR THAT YET.

READY FOR WHAT? YOUR FRIENDS?

EVERYONE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU. JUST COME BACK AND SAY HELLO AND GET YOUR HUGS AND LET EVERYONE KNOW YOU'RE OKAY.

I JUST THINK I'M BETTER OFF FLYING SOLO FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

THAT'S FINE. JUST COME SAY HI.

I REALLY DON'T THINK--

YOU DO GET THE WHOLE *"I'M NOT TAKING NO FOR AN ANSWER"* PART, RIGHT?

CAROL...

AVENGERS MANSION.

UGH! THIS-- THIS IS A TERRIBLE TERRIBLE TERRIBLE IDEA.

EVERYONE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

EVERYONE WILL BE *VERY* HAPPY TO SEE YOU.

BUT--

HEY...

ONCE AN AVENGER, ALWAYS AN AVENGER.

JUST COME SAY HELLO.

SERIOUSLY, YOU SHOULD SEE HOW THEY--

VISION.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, WANDA?

I'M TALKING TO MY WIFE.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF EVERYBODY--

I HAVE EMPATHY FOR ALL YOUR LIFE STRUGGLES.

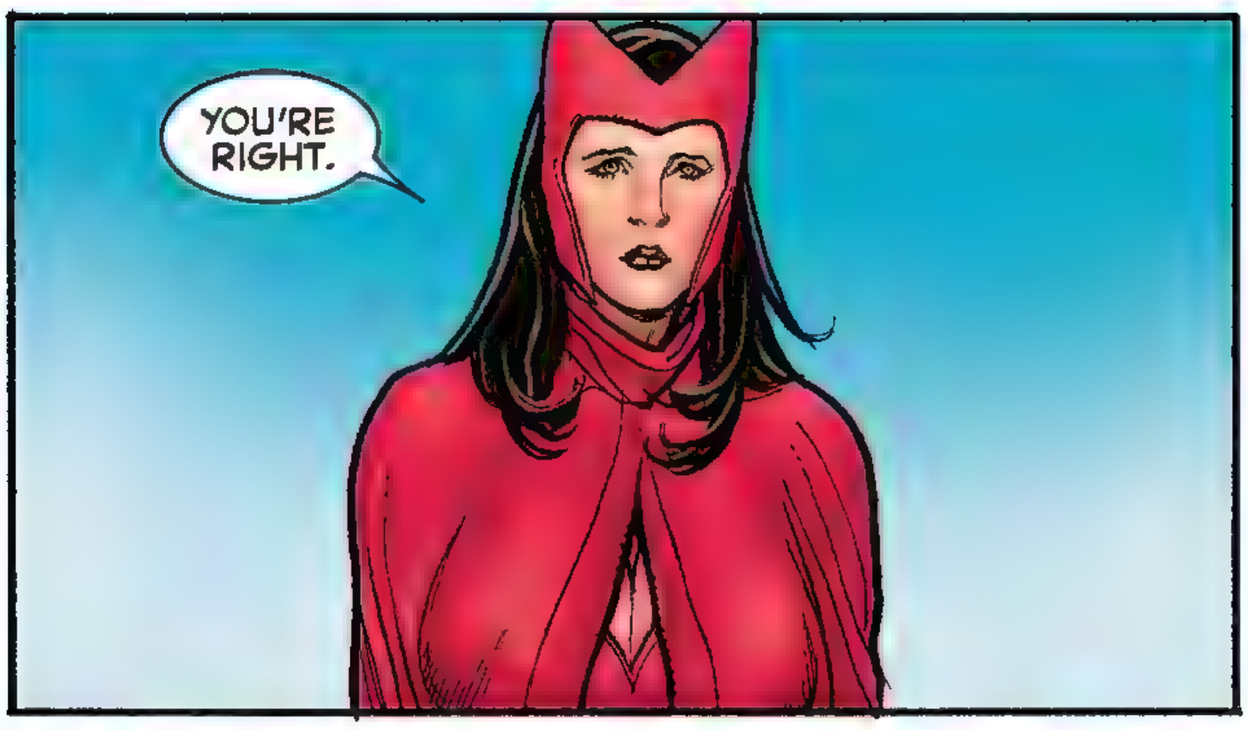
AND I HAVE EMPATHY FOR THE MANIPULATIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE ENDURED.

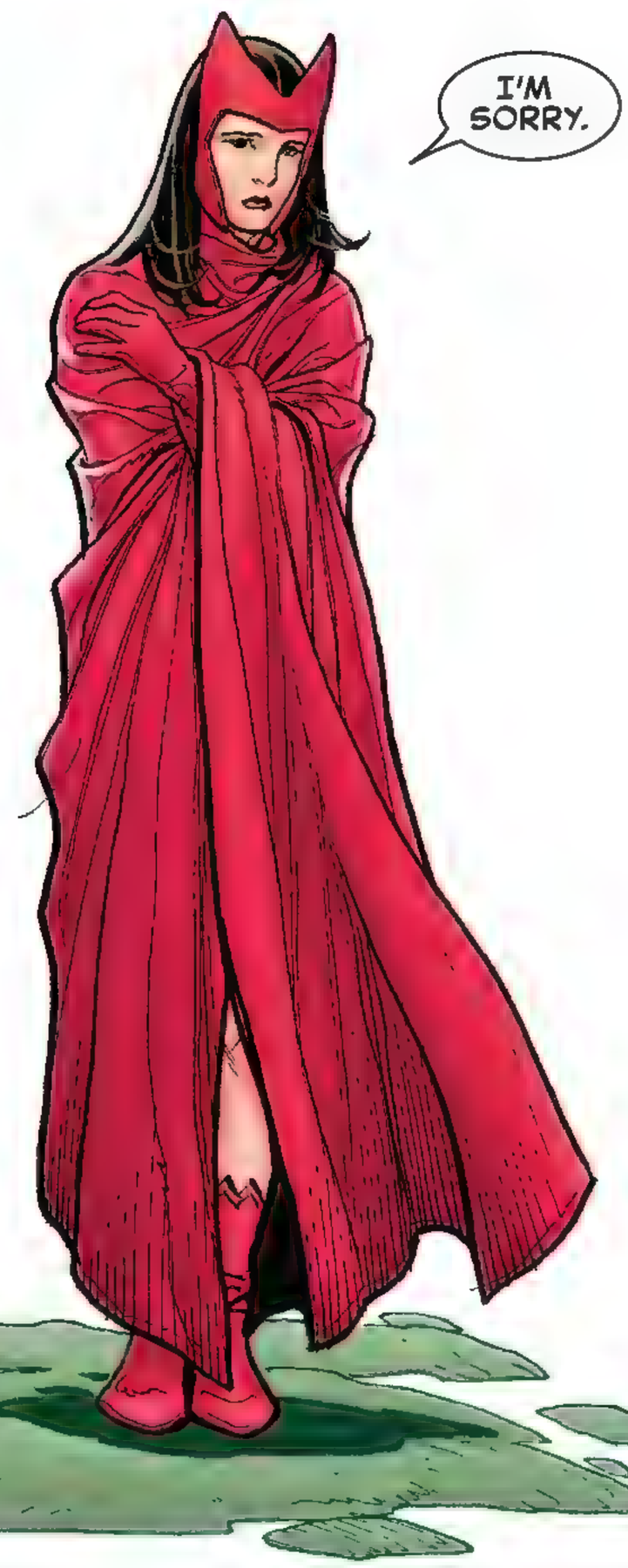
BUT WHAT I DO NOT HAVE COMPASSION OR UNDERSTANDING FOR IS THE IDEA THAT, WHEN YOU WERE AT YOUR LOWEST, YOU CHOSE...

OUT OF THE MILLIONS OF CHOICES AND VARIABLES IN FRONT OF YOU...

YOU CHOSE TO OVERPOWER ME AND USE MY BODY AS A WEAPON AGAINST MY FRIENDS AND MY HOME.

THAT I CANNOT FORGIVE.


YOU'RE RIGHT.


I'M SORRY.

THIS IS NOT YOUR HOME ANYMORE.
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.
VISION, COME ON...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO DISCOVER... NOW YOU KNOW.
YES...
I ALREADY KNEW.
WOW! COULD YOU BE ANY MORE OF A--?
THIS IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.
LITTLE ROUGH ON HER, HUH?
HIS CALL.
I KNOW.
I GET IT.
I JUST-- I ALWAYS LIKED THEM TOGETHER.

UTOPIA.
ISLAND HOME OF THE X-MEN. OFF THE COAST OF SAN FRANCISCO.

ALL RIGHT THEN...

LET'S TRY NOT TO HIT ANY *BUILDINGS* THIS TIME.

THIS HAS TO *STOP*, HOPE.

WHATEVER THE HELL THIS IS, IT HAS TO *STOP*.

FINE, OKAY, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR STUPID ***JETPACK*** BACK.

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

THOUGH YES, I ***WOULD*** LIKE MY JETPACK BACK.

YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING OUT EVERY NIGHT FOR ALMOST A ***WEEK*** NOW. DID YOU ***REALLY*** THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE?

I LET IT SLIDE AT FIRST, HOPING YOU'D COME TO YOUR SENSES.

I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING WRONG.

THEN WHY ARE YOU SNEAKING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D ACT ***EXACTLY*** LIKE YOU'RE ACTING. ALL I DO IS FLY AROUND. THERE ARE TIMES I JUST NEED TO...TO ***CLEAR*** MY HEAD.

THAT'S ***NOT*** ALL YOU DO.

TWO MUGGERS WERE BEATEN HALF TO DEATH IN THE TENDERLOIN LAST NIGHT. THE NIGHT BEFORE THAT, A PAROLED CHILD MOLESTER IN CORONA HEIGHTS HAD HIS LEGS BROKEN. ***TELL*** ME YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. OR THAT THERE'S NOT A ***POLICE SCANNER*** STRAPPED TO YOUR BELT.

PROTECTING A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS US. ISN'T THAT OUR JOB?

NOT WHEN IT MEANS NEEDLESSLY PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER.

AND HERE I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS CALLED UTOPIA. FUNNY NAME FOR A ***PRISON.***

NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING ***CHILDISH.*** YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A PRISONER HERE, HOPE, YOU KNOW THAT. BUT YOU ALSO KNOW HOW ***DANGEROUS*** IT IS FOR YOU TO BE OUT THERE ON YOUR OWN. YOU'RE TOO BIG A ***TARGET.***

YOU'RE TOO IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE HERE. MOST ESPECIALLY ***ME.***

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. I'M NOT THE DELICATE LITTLE FLOWER YOU SEEM TO THINK I AM.

NO. YOU'RE NOT.

YOU'RE THE MUTANT *MESSIAH.*

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US BACK FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION. YOU'RE THE ONE MUTANT IN ALL THE WORLD THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.

BUT *WHY?*

HOPE...

NO, FOR ONCE, *TELL* ME THE WHY AND THE HOW. HOW AM I DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER MUTANT OUT HERE? ALL I'VE DONE MY WHOLE LIFE IS RUN FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE TRYING TO KILL ME. AND THEN I TURN AROUND AND SOMEONE TELLS ME HOW *AMAZING* I AM.

WHY? WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL?

EVERYTHING.

THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.

I WANT THE *TRUTH.* JUST TELL ME. PLEASE.

TELL ME ABOUT THE *PHOENIX.*

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE--

I KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK I DO. I KNOW IT'S SOME BIG-TIME COSMIC FIREBIRD. AND I KNOW IT'S COMING FOR *ME.* JUST LIKE IT CAME YEARS AGO FOR YOUR WIFE, JEAN. I KNOW EVERYBODY GETS CRAZY SCARED WHENEVER IT'S EVEN MENTIONED. MOST ESPECIALLY *YOU.*

SO...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT *GETS* HERE?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

HOPE, WAIT...

IF YOU WON'T TELL ME, I'LL FIND MY *OWN* ANSWERS.

ALL UNITS, 10-30 IN PROGRESS AT THE ISOTOPE BANK AND TRUST, 326 FELL STREET...

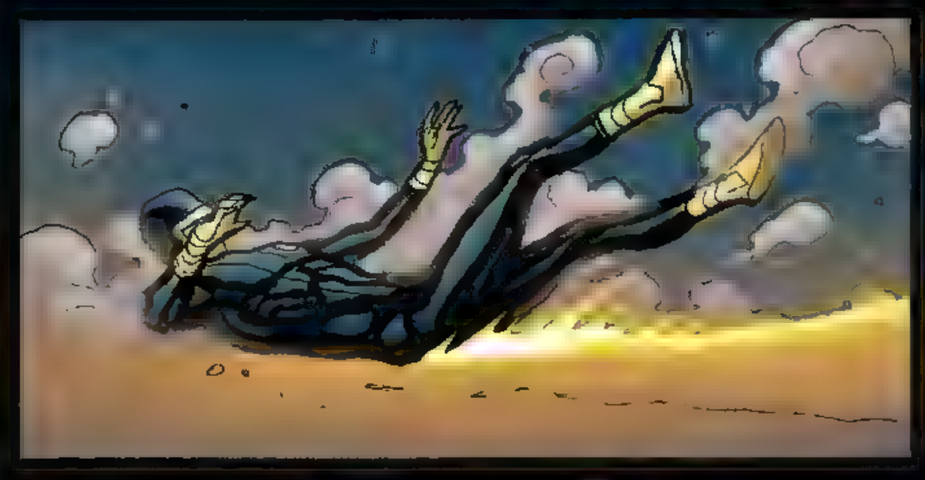
DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO STOP ME.

HOPE, JUST LISTEN, PLEASE...

NO.

YOU LISTEN.



FWOOOSH

WELL...
THAT PROBABLY COULD'VE GONE BETTER.

Hope's Journal.

Tonight I shot Cyclops with his own eyeblasts. Felt good.

He just doesn't get it.

I spent 15 years of my life on the run. Does Scott now expect me to just sit in a corner and wait for him to tell me what to do?

I'm tired of waiting. Tired of being left in the dark.

Everybody always tells me I'm special. I'm this, I'm that.

Sometimes I have no idea who or what the hell I am.

WHOOPS. MUSTA SLIPPED.

All I know is...

...I have to figure that part out for **myself.**

WE HAVE THE PLACE SURROUNDED! WE ARE READY TO HEAR YOUR DEMANDS! JUST *DO NOT* HURT THE HOSTAGES!

BANK

I was raised in the future by the bravest man I've ever known. **Cable.** The ultimate soldier.

He taught me everything I know.

Which is always **just** enough to get me into trouble.

WHACK

WHOA.

AS A MUTANT, I SURE HATE TO JUDGE SOMEONE BASED SOLELY ON APPEARANCE...

BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE ONE OF THE *BAD* GUYS.

WHUMP

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*

WHAT?

A HEARD SOMETHING. LIKE A *WHUMP.*

COPS MIGHT BE TRYING TO SNEAK IN THE BACK. *BUSHMASTER* CAN HANDLE THEM.

COTTONMOUTH, HOW'S THAT VAULT DOOR COMING?

PUFF ADDER'S ALMOST GOT IT. COUPLE MORE MINUTES.

BUSHMASTER?

EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT BACK HERE?

KRAKK

GAAAH

WHAT THE HELL--

HANDS IN THE AIR!

OR SNAKE ARMS! OR WHATEVER THE HELL YOU GOT!

BOY, THE SUPER HEROES JUST GET YOUNGER AND YOUNGER THESE DAYS, DON'T THEY? WHAT ARE YOU, THE NEW KID FROM *POWER PACK* OR SOMETHING?

RUN HOME, LITTLE GIRL. LEAVE WHILE YOU STILL GOT A GOOD STORY TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS.

HOW'D YOU GET PAST BUSHMASTER ANYWAY?

YOU MEAN YOUR FRIEND WITH THE TAIL AND THE BIG SPIKY ARMS? DID YOU GUYS KNOW THOSE ARMS ARE CYBERNETIC? I DIDN'T.

UNTIL I CUT THEM OFF.

YOU'RE SURE A *FEISTY* LITTLE THING.

I *HATE* FEISTY LITTLE THINGS.

HHRRGH

SORRY, KID. THE *SERPENT SOCIETY* DOESN'T USUALLY STOOP TO KILLING TEENS, BUT YOU PRETTY MUCH *ASKED* FOR IT...

WHACK

RRGHH

THE *HEADBUTT.* I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE HEADBUTT.

HITTING SOMEONE WITH YOUR OWN HEAD. DOESN'T THAT JUST HURT YOU AS MUCH AS IT DOES ME?

WHACK

HEY! CUT IT--

WHACK

GAAH!

WHACK

UGHH

WHACK

WHUMP

NEXT.

PUFF ADDER. SHE'S ALL YOURS.

PUFF ADDER. I CAN SEE WHY THEY CALL YOU THAT. TELL ME SOMETHING, PUFF...

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE A *MUTANT*, WOULD YOU?

YEAH. WHAT'S IT TO YA?

WELL, SEE, MY POWERS ONLY WORK ON MUTANTS.

YOUR *POWERS?* *WHAT* POWERS?

WHAT THE..?

THAT'S THE SAME POWER *I* GOT!

MAYBE YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT AFTER YOU *WAKE UP.*

WHAM

SHOOOM

HOPE?!

HOPE!

RRRRGHH

HOPE, THAT'S ENOUGH!

HUH?

YEAH...

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.

EMMA...

AMBULANCES ARE ALREADY ON THE WAY.

COTTONMOUTH TRIED TO BITE MY HEAD OFF. I WAS JUST...

BACK TO UTOPIA, HOPE. *NOW.*

I'LL DEAL WITH THE AUTHORITIES. AND THEN I'LL DEAL WITH YOU.

I KNOW WHY YOU'RE SCARED.

WHAT?

YOU THINK THE PHOENIX IS EITHER GOING TO KILL ME OR DRIVE ME CRAZY. OR MAYBE BOTH. JUST LIKE IT DID JEAN.

BUT I'M NOT YOUR DEAD WIFE, SCOTT. THAT'S NOT MY STORY.

THE PHOENIX IS COMING. I KNOW THAT. AND I'M NOT AFRAID.

I *WANT* IT TO COME.

I'M *READY.*

THIS IS TOO MUCH PRESSURE, SCOTT. SHE'S STILL JUST A *KID.*

NO. SHE IS MOST DEFINITELY *NOT* JUST A KID.

IN THE END, SHE'LL SAVE US ALL. I KNOW THAT.

OR PERHAPS *KILL* US ALL.

EITHER WAY...

"...THAT MAKES HER SOMETHING *SPECIAL.*"

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